



Press Release

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Veterans of the War Are Recovering from Traumatic Brain Injury, PTSD & Depression

Washington, D.C. (July 24, 2008)– Of the 1.6 million American soldiers, sailors and aviators who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan, the RAND Corp. reported in April 2008, that 300,000 have post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD). RAND said it would cost \$6.2 billion to treat PTSD with counseling. Another 320,000 suffered traumatic brain injury, which in severe cases can cost more than \$400,000 each to treat; and 80,000 service members screened positive for depression (almost \$26,000 per year for a severe case.)

The International Hyperbaric Medical Association (IHMA) has been coordinating the DoD-Brain Injury Rescue and Rehabilitation Project (DoD-BIRR) with physicians at over 60 locations nationwide. There is a treatment that has proven effective for all three conditions listed above; hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT). This treatment is already used 10,000 times a day at over 800 locations for everything from non-healing diabetic wounds, radiation injuries from cancer treatment, to 14 other Medicare reimbursable and FDA-approved indications. HBOT at 1.5 ata has clinical and scientific data demonstrating its effectiveness at permanently rebuilding brains in 120 days and treating concussive PTSD & depression for \$10,000-\$20,000.

“There is no other medical treatment for traumatic brain injury available to a physician that has hyperbaric oxygen therapy’s level of scientific evidence including peer-reviewed studies, clinical success or experience behind it,” said Dr. Paul Harch, Director of the Hyperbaric Medicine Fellowship at Louisiana State University School of Medicine. Dr. Harch has used the therapy for 17 years on over 500 patients and has taught the technique to hundreds of doctors. Using the same human protocol, in October, 2007 Dr. Harch published the first ever improvement of chronic brain injury in animals.

Said Dr. Ted Fogarty, Chairman of Radiology at the University of North Dakota, School of Medicine: "Functional neuroimaging shows HBOT revitalizes brain tissues and restores normal brain metabolism in vastly different areas of the brain in ways that other existing treatments cannot. To leave these injured neurons in our brave veterans to wither on the vine seems criminal when HBOT 1.5 is available and works."

An Army Reserve General, who is a judge in civilian life, is back on the bench today, after a year of no progress at Walter Reed. He recovered in 120 days with 8!0 HBOT 1.5 treatments. The Health Freedom Foundation, our 501(c)3 affiliate, sponsored a Marine machine gunner who experienced seven concussive events from roadside bombs during two tours in Iraq. Migraine headaches: Gone. Sleep: Restored. PTSD: Gone. His life has been restored. Additional veterans of the war have also improved from treatment.

Today a multi-state coordinated effort is under way to treat veterans of the war, including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves, and those who have already been discharged. HBOT 1.5 treatment will restore shattered lives, enable many to stay on active duty and restore hope to hundreds of thousands. This IHMA-coordinated effort will result in the necessary scientific proof so that HBOT 1.5 becomes standard of care for acute and chronic neurological injuries, and will be fully reimbursed by VA, TRICARE, and civilian insurance. Veterans who wish treatment can contact us and IHMA will refer them to their closest treating facility.

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